

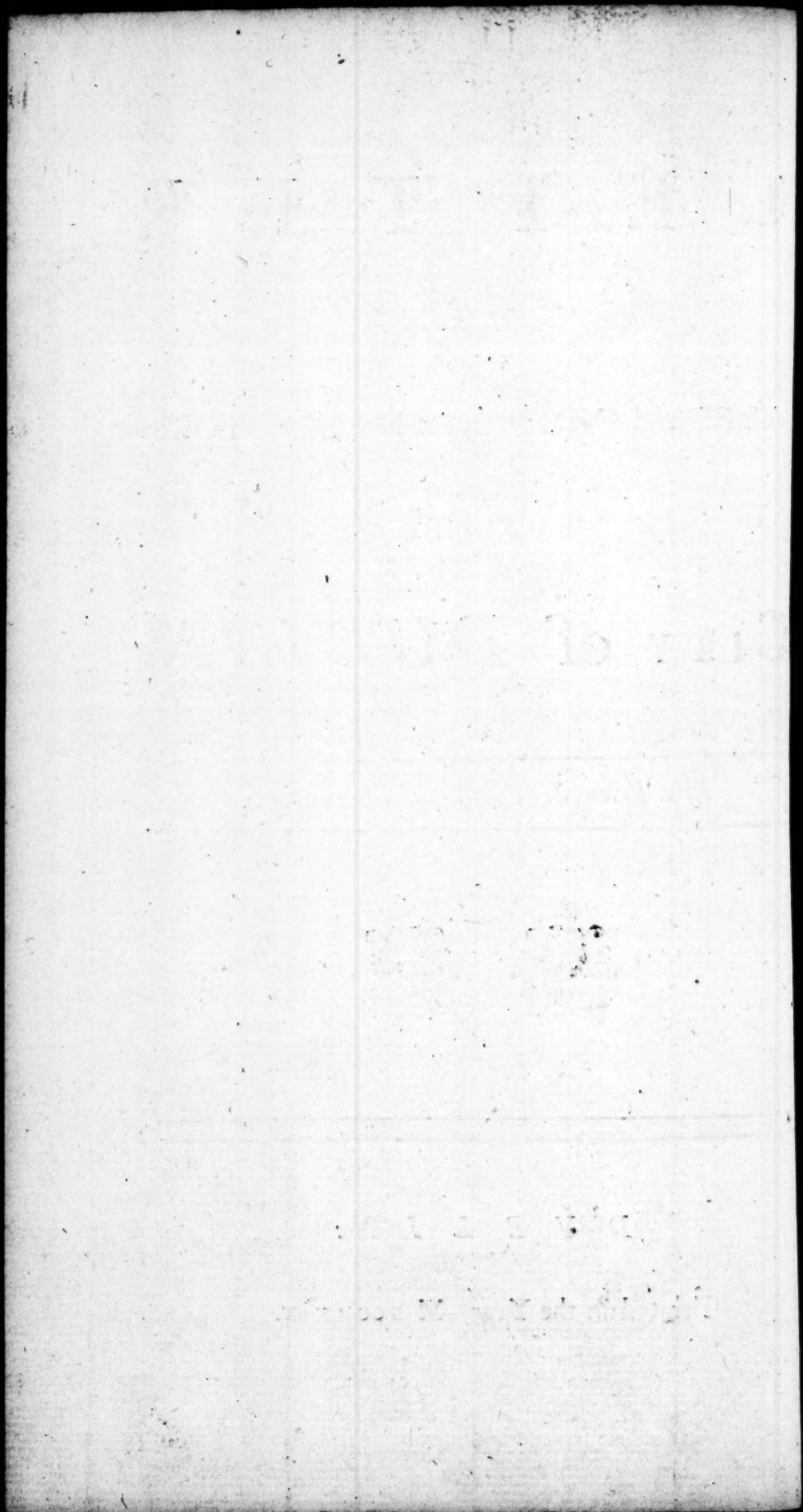
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L E T T E R
T O T H E
FREE and INDEPENDENT ELECTORS
O F T H E
CITY of *DUBLIN*.

By a Friend to TRUTH and LIBERTY.



D U B L I N:

Printed in the Year, M DCC LXIX.



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L E T T E R, &c.

FRRIENDS and FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN! Bear with a few Suggestions from an honest Heart, though unknown to you, humbly offered to your most serious Consideration. The Subject of them shall be my only Apology, as Love to you, to Liberty and my Country, are my only Motives, in thus presenting them.

When the most open, and, I think, formidable Attack is made upon your Rights as Members of this great City, and upon moral Honesty and Virtue, in general, it is no Time for much Delicacy, and formal Nicety, in those who desire to withstand it. The present Transactions of our City, I need not tell you, have raised these dismal Fears, these most melancholy Apprehensions; they are become big with the most frightful Consequences; if they are successful, they cannot fail of producing the most lasting Evils. The Cause of *Slavery* and *moral Depravity* is avowedly abetted by the most powerful Friends, and is openly the Object of the most assiduous Application, the most earnest Attention; you are yourselves the Witnesses of this, and I am saved the Trouble of informing you how, and in what Manner it is attempted. Are you not daily and most unfortunately solicited to act contrary to the Sense of your

own Minds? To overcome the Obligations to Duty which your Consciences present you with? To do what you believe to be evil and unlawful? To prevail on you, are you not presented with Motives of Interest, with Promises of Reward on one Hand? and are you not threatened with Losses, with Denunciations of Vengeance on the other? What is the Tendency, I will not say Intention, of those who direct this Conduct, but the Propagation of Vice and all manner of Wickedness? What more direct Means could the *Prince of Darkness* himself devise to accomplish his Purpose? I will not allow myself to think that any guilty of these Attempts to overcome the Ingenuity of his Neighbour's Mind, really intend this Consequence: But I am afraid they are little solicitous about the Matter; and provided they gain their present Ends, give themselves but little Trouble about what follows. Would it be wonderful to find the Man who has been thus engaged to counteract the real Sense of his Mind, and Dictates of his Conscience in one Instance, proceeding to do it in another, and defrauding his Employer in the Goodness of his Work, or in his Charges for doing it? The first Instance may be as important in the Artificers Estimation as the second, and a second Transgression is always much easier than the former.

And what is it my Friends that is aimed at by these most unrighteous and pernicious Means? Here, again, I am in Charity obliged to distinguish between the Intention of those who use them, and the real Consequence of Success in this Matter: The one is to get two Men returned into Parliament, whose Interests they have espoused; but the other is nothing less than undermining the very Foundations of the Liberty and Happiness of our Civil Constitution. The Matter of contest now, is not who shall be recommended to your free Choice and Election, as the fittest to be the Guardians of your Rights and Interests in Parliament; but whether a few of the *Great*
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and *Powerful*, or the *great Majority* and *Bulk* of the *People*, shall elect those who are to be called your *Representatives*; whether, in short, the *Power* and *Influence* of a few of *high Station* and *Fortune* shall stifle the *free Suffrages* of you my *Fellow-Citizens*, and dictate and prescribe to you what you are to do, to whom you are to give your Voice. That this has the most direct Tendency absolutely to subvert our happy Form of Government, is abundantly obvious, as it deprives us of the only Security of Liberty in it. The *popular* or *democratick* Part is a sure Fortrefs while it is preserved, but if it is given up, our *Liberty* must accompany it.

We all know that the Members returned from *Boroughs* are not the *Representative* of the *People*, but are either the *Proprietors*, or those who have the Influence in them themselves, or those whom they please to nominate either from Friendship, or a *valuable Consideration*. Many of our Counties also are so thinly inhabited with Protestants, that the Choice is in *one* or a very *few*; so that the Cities and the few remaining Counties are the only Security for this Part of our Constitution. What must it then be to attempt to bring our *chief City*, our *Metropolis*, into the same State with a Country Borough. If it succeeds in this Instance, where is the City or Country we can expect better of, and then farewell the noblest Part of our *Civil Polity*! farewell *Liberty*! Who can pretend to the least Spark of Love for either, and yet lend his Aid to this most wicked Intention.

What bareface Impudence is it in those Gentlemen for whom the Attempt is at present made, to talk of being *Friends* to *Liberty*, to the *Freedom* of our *Constitution*? Are not they or their Abettors laying violent Hands upon, and doing what they can, to extinguish what they would be thought to defend and support? Should we be surpris'd to hear these Men declared *Enemies* to their County, to Liberty, to the Protestant

Protestant Interest? Is not one of their *backney Scribes* employed to weaken that Association, by raising Jealousies among Protestants; nay, who would persuade us that *Papists* and *Protestants* are more naturally connected than *Protestants* and *Protestants*? Is there not a like Insinuation made in a Letter from a pretended Member of the House of *Commons* to a chief Magistrate of a Borough? I do not fear that it will ever be in the Power of any *ignorant Papist, designing Jacobite, or self-interested Man*, who cares not for the Public, if he can gain his own End, to disunite *Protestants*, so as to weaken their Hands, and to draw them off from the joint Defence of the common Object of their Care and Solicitude. But what Opinion must you form of those, in whose Behalf these Things are attempted? Ought they to wonder if the *latter End* of *Queen Ann's* Reign should be once more brought under our View; the *Similitude* of *Manners* be remarked of the one; the *unnatural Degeneracy* of the other? Suffer me here to express my Astonishment at the Reception this Conduct has met with! Ye Friends of Liberty, of Virtue, of your Country, in what Manner do ye justify your Approbation of these Measures, or of those who use them? Will you be offended if the Name of *Whig* should be more sparingly dispensed hereafter, or if used, should change it's original Meaning, to denote only Drinkers of certain *Toasts*, as Opportunities of drinking—much good Liquor?

And now, my fellow Citizens, consider how you can relish these Doings, and how these Attempts, if attended with Success, will affect you. They aim at nothing less than your *Virtue*, your *Liberty*, your *Importance*, as Members of the *Community*. Your Rights, as Men, as Judges of your own Conduct, are invaded. You are required to become obedient to the *Will* and *Humour* of your *Superiors*, without any Regard to your own Sentiments, or Sense of Duty: Is not *Submission* here the most abject *Slavery*, worse even than

than being deprived of your outward Freedom and Property? By giving Way, will not the *Citizens* of this City lose their Considerations, their Importance? Who will think, on any future Occasion, of recommending himself to you, when he sees you are not the Electors, but are at the Devotion of a few of the Great and Powerful, to whom only it is requisite to make Application? This Reason, in my Opinion, ought to draw off every sensible Lover of Liberty from that Side on which such Practices are used, however attached they might have been to it before.

What is any personal liking of a particular Man, to the Defence you owe to Liberty, to your Rights as Members of Society, which are evidently invaded. The nearest Relation, the most intimate connection of Friendship, is no Reason at all for abandoning any Cause where your Liberty and most important Interests are concerned. Act then as Men, as those who have larger Views, and more extensive Principles of Action than private Attachments, how strong so ever. Shew your Importance, your Zeal for your Liberty, your detestation of such Iniquities; suffer not the Promises of Reward, the denunciation of Punishment to have any Weight with you. Many of you, I trust, are Independent on these *Enslavers*, these *Pests* of all Society, and such of you therefore are quite inexcusable, if you forsake your Duty: But even you who are not so; what are you to expect from them? Are their base, their little Minds susceptible of any lasting Engagements to you? Will the Promises now made be remembered, when the reason for which they were made, is at an End? And do you think it ought to be a Recommendation of you to your Employers, that they have found you capable of Bribery, and of being prevailed on to depart from what you esteem your Duty? Will they not be more apt to suspect that you may do the like in other Instances also. They will say, they have known you can be Rogues when you have met with a suitable Temptation, and therefore
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can place no Trust or Confidence in you : On the other Hand, if you shew yourselves Men of Principle and Conscience, must not they, whatever they pretend, like you the better ? And when a Fit of Passion, perhaps, is over, be disposed to think, that you are fitter for their Purpose, and will serve them more uprightly.

Let these Things be weighed by you, and they will take off much of the force of those Promises and Threatnings : They will even shew you, that in many Instances it is your Interest to withstand them, as it is certainly true, in general, that Success in Business depends much upon the Moral Character for Honesty and Integrity ; and still more certain, that true Happiness always does so.

Rouse then my Friends, and be not frightened with Spectres, or enticed with the Words of *Deceit* : Shew yourselves *Freemen*, and *good Citizens*, jealous of every Innovation of your Rights and Liberties, and susceptible of a just Contempt and becoming Indignation at those who would enslave you, but have not the Power, if you are true to yourselves and your own Interests.

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